residence of the homebuyer, the affordability requirements of this section apply only to the assisted unit. If HOME funds are also used to assist the low-income homebuyer to acquire one or more of the rental units in the single-family housing, the affordability requirements of § 92.252 apply to assisted rental units, except that the participating jurisdiction may impose resale or recapture restrictions on all assisted units (owner-occupied and rental units) in the single family housing. If resale restrictions are used, the affordability requirements on all assisted units continue for the period of affordability. If recapture restrictions are used, the affordability requirements on the assisted rental units may be terminated, at the discretion of the participating jurisdiction, upon recapture of the HOME investment. (If HOME funds are used to assist only the rental units in such a property then the requirements of § 92.252 would apply and the owner-occupied unit would not be subject to the income targeting or affordability provisions of § 92.254.)

(7) *Lease-purchase.* HOME funds may be used to assist homebuyers through lease-purchase programs. The housing must be purchased by a homebuyer within 36 months of signing the lease-purchase agreement. The homebuyer must qualify as a low-income family at the time the lease-purchase agreement is signed and at the time the housing is transferred if more than six months have elapsed since the participating jurisdiction determined that the family was income eligible. If HOME funds are used to acquire housing that will be resold to a homebuyer through a lease-purchase program, the HOME affordability requirements for rental housing in § 92.252 shall apply if the housing is not transferred to a homebuyer within forty-two months after project completion.

(b) *Rehabilitation not involving acquisition.* Housing that is currently owned by a family qualifies as affordable housing only if:

(1) The estimated value of the property, after rehabilitation, does not exceed 95 percent of the median purchase price for the area, described in paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section; and

(2) The housing is the principal residence of an owner whose family qualifies as a low-income family at the time HOME funds are committed to the housing.

(c) *Ownership interest.* The ownership in the housing assisted under this section must meet the definition of ''homeownership'' in § 92.2.

(d) *New construction without acquisition.* Newly constructed housing that is built on property currently owned by a family which will occupy the housing upon completion, qualifies as affordable housing if it meets the requirements under paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 92.255 Converting rental units to homeownership units for existing tenants.

The participating jurisdiction may permit the owner of HOME-assisted rental units to convert the rental units to homeownership units by selling, donating, or otherwise conveying the units to the existing tenants to enable the tenants to become homeowners in accordance with the requirements of § 92.254. If no additional HOME funds are used to enable the tenants to become homeowners, the homeownership units are subject to a minimum period of affordability equal to the remaining affordable period if the units continued as rental units. If additional HOME funds are used to directly assist the tenants to become homeowners, the minimum period of affordability is the affordability period under § 92.254(a)(4), based on the amount of direct homeownership assistance provided.

§ 92.256 [Reserved]

§ 92.257 Religious organizations.

HOME funds may not be provided to primarily religious organizations, such as churches, for any activity including secular activities. In addition, HOME funds may not be used to rehabilitate or construct housing owned by primarily religious organizations or to assist primarily religious organizations in acquiring housing. However, HOME funds may be used by a secular entity to acquire housing from a primarily religious organization, and a primarily religious entity may transfer title to